

Daniel P. Vrakas
County Executive



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VRAKAS SCALES BACK CAPITAL SPENDING
Maintaining existing infrastructure is a priority

Waukesha, WIS. – Waukesha County Executive Dan Vrakas announced today that his proposal for the county's 2007-2011 Capital Projects plan is \$4.6 million less than last year's plan and \$17 million less than the 2005 plan.

Vrakas said, "My philosophy has always been that it is most important to properly maintain existing infrastructure and to carefully examine all new expansion plans. I believe that this plan is reflective of that philosophy and makes the best use of our tax dollars."

In comparison to previous plans, there are a few notable changes in this 5-year Capital Projects plan. The first change is to delay the building of an additional courtroom facility until an operations study is finished and various cost estimates are completed, which is consistent with the County Board ordinance to study such alternatives. The second change is in response to a request from officials at the city of Muskego to revise the County Trunk Highway (CTH) L project to reduce disruption to traffic and businesses in the area. The last phase of this project is estimated at \$25.55 million.

About 67% or \$63.2 million of the plan is dedicated to highways, which includes nearly \$14 million for the repaving program, \$5.1 million for signal and safety improvement, and over \$1.7 million for bridge repair. This funding commitment assures that highway safety issues are addressed in a timely manner and that highway infrastructure is sustained to help fuel economic development.

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“VRAKAS SCALES BACK CAPITAL SPENDING” continued...

“Even with a scaled back budget, the maintenance of the county’s roads and facilities must be a priority,” stated Vrakas.

Other highway projects included in the plan, like the final phase of CTH Q (County Line Road) (\$1.3 million) and CTH Y (Racine Avenue) (\$9.5 million), address expanded capacity.

In addition to these important road projects, Vrakas authorized the county’s Public Works department to submit a proposal to the regional State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation Office (WisDOT) to finish the long overdue Waukesha By-Pass. The plan would split the project into various pieces that would be divided between the county, the city of Waukesha, and the state. While the county does not have an official commitment from the WisDOT, this Capital Projects plan includes the county’s pieces of that effort, which include (\$4.1 million) CTH TT (Meadowbrook Road) and (\$15.3 million) CTH X (St. Paul Avenue), which have been previously approved by the County Board.

New facility maintenance projects include fire alarm upgrades (2009-2010) at four government campus center buildings, Juvenile Center boilers and controls (2010-2011), replacement and upgrades to equipment, as well as repair and remodeling at the Northview facility (2009-2011). A number of park projects have been updated, but the only new building item is the construction of a second shelter at Fox Brook Park in Brookfield.

The Capital Projects plan also accounts for new technology to improve business system operations. The two new projects in this area consist of the replacement of the voicemail system, which has aged past vendor support, and a collections system interface project, which would eliminate data re-entry of delinquent collections accounts from Health and Human Services and the Courts. Both of these projects are planned for in 2007-2008 and will be funded through available internal service fund balances.

Vrakas said, “My Capital Projects plan is conservative, meets the needs of a growing county, and supports economic development and private sector expansion. I would like to thank the County Board for its careful review of it, and I look forward to working with them to pass an outstanding 2007 budget.”

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